

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 PORT O 01327 021554Z

46

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 DIWY-01 CU-02 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 OES-03 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 OIC-02 SS-15 AID-05 HEW-02 L-03 /077 W

----- 016827

R 021510Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7848

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 1327

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON IWY UN TD

SUBJECT: TRINIDAD DELEGATION TO WORLD CONFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S YEAR

REF: STATE 119806

1. DR. CUTHBERT JOSEPH, MINISTER IN MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL  
AFFAIRS, HAS INFORMED ME THAT GOTT CABINET ON MAY 28  
SELECTED FOLLOWING THREE-WOMAN OFFICIAL TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO  
DELEGATION TO WORLD CONFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S  
YEAR:

LADY JUSTICE ELIZABETH BOURNE--CHAIRPERSON OF T&T COMMISSION ON  
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

SENATOR RUBY FELIX--CHAIRPERSON OF GOTT COMMISSION ON EQUAL  
OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN;

MISS CORINNE BAPTISTE--COUNSELOR OF GOTT EMBASSY WASHINGTON

2. LADY JUSTICE BOURNE AND SENATOR FELIX BOTH VERY WELL AND  
FAVORABLY KNOWN TO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN. BIOGRAPHIC INFO  
FOLLOWS IN PARAGRAPHS BELOW. AS A MEMBER OF THE HIGH COURT,  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PORT O 01327 021554Z

LADY JUSTICE BOURNE IS INDEPENDENT OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF GOVERN-  
MENT, WHEREAS SENATOR FELIX (WHO ALSO HOLDS POSITION IN MINISTRY

OF LABOR) TENDS TO REPRESENT RULING PEOPLES NATIONAL MOVEMENT (PNM) ON WOMEN'S ISSUES. BOTH RELATIVELY CONSERVATIVE, HIGHLY COMPETENT WOMEN WHO ARE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN BASIC ISSUES WHICH WILL COME BEFORE WCIWY. EMBASSY FEELS THEIR INFLUENCE AT CONFERENCE WILL BE DIRECTLY DEVOTED TO SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES OF BASIC CONCERN AND THAT THEY WILL BE LITTLE INTERESTED IN CONTENTIOUS EXTRANEIOUS ISSUES. IF SUCH MATTERS AS CERDS OR NIEO ARE RAISED, HOWEVER, GOTT DELEGATION COULD BE EXPECTED TO VOTE WITH THIRD WORLD MAJORITY AS AT OTHER CONFERENCES. NEVERTHELESS, BOURNE AND FELIX COULD BE HELPFUL TO USDEL IN TRYING TO KEEP CONFERENCE DIRECTED TO PRIMARY BUSINESS.

3. CORINNE BAPTISTE IS CAREER MEMBER GOTT FOREIGN SERVICE AND HAS NOT BEEN PRESENT IN TRINIDAD TO BE ACTIVE IN WOMEN'S AFFAIRS HERE IN RECENT YEARS. WE UNDERSTAND SHE IS COMPETENT AND WELL-REGARDED OFFICIAL, BUT DEFER TO DEPARTMENT'S (ARA/CAR) MORE RECENT ACQUAINTANCE WITH HER IN WASHINGTON EMBASSY.

4. BIOGRAPHIC DETAILS FOLLOW:

A) LADY JUSTICE BOURNE-LADY JUSTICE ELIZABETH BOURNE BECAME THE FIRST WOMAN TO SERVE AS A JUDGE ON THE HIGH COURT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO WHEN SHE WAS APPOINTED IN 1972. A ST. LUCIA-BORN BARRISTER WHO STUDIED AT MIDDLE TEMPLE IN LONDON, JUSTICE BOURNE HAS HELD A VARIETY OF LEGAL AND JUDICIAL POSITIONS IN TRINIDAD. SHE HAS SERVED AS CROWN COUNSEL, CHIEF PARLIAMENTARY COUNSEL, AND LEGAL SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS AND, PRIOR TO HER APPOINTMENT TO THE BENCH, HAD BEEN CHIEFLY INVOLVED WITH DRAFTING LAWS RATHER THAN INTERPRETING THEM. IN 1969 SHE ATTENDED A SEMINAR FOR GOVERNMENT LAW OFFICERS AT HARVARD. SHE IS 55 YEARS OLD AND SINGLE.

B) SENATOR RUBY FELIX IS A PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOR, SOCIAL SECURITY AND COOPERATIVES WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE STATUS AND PROBLEMS OF WOMEN. PRIOR TO HER APPOINTMENT TO THE SENATE AND A PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARYSHIP IN 1970, SHE WAS A TEACHER IN A PORT OF SPAIN GIRLS SCHOOL. REARED IN THE POOR EAST DRY RIVER SECTION OF PORT OF SPAIN, MISS FELIX HAS ARRIVED AT HER PRESENT POSITION THROUGH HER OWN DETERMINED EFFORTS. SHE HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS A CIVIC-MINDED ACTIVIST WHO HAS SHOWN AN UNITRING DEVOTION TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PORT O 01327 021554Z

THE PEOPLES NATIONAL MOVEMENT. SHE IS FIFTY YEARS OLD AND SINGLE.

C) MISS CORINNE BAPTISTE IS A CAREER DIPLOMAT IN THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FOREIGN SERVICE. A NATIVE OF TRINIDAD'S SECOND CITY, SAN FERNANDO, SHE WAS EDUCATED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES AND AT THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS. WHEN SHE WAS ASSIGNED TO THE T&T HIGH COMMISSION IN LONDON IN 1964, SHE WAS THE FIRST WOMAN IN HER SERVICE TO BE POSTED ABROAD. SHE IS 35 YEARS OLD AND SINGLE.

5. WE UNDERSTAND SEVERAL OTHER TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PROFESSIONAL WOMEN

MAY ATTEND IWY TRIBUNE BEING HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH WCIWY. SO FAR,  
WE ARE CERTAIN ONLY OF MRS. GEMA RAMKISSOON, SOCIAL WORKER, CHAIRMAN  
OF PORT OF SPAIN YWCA, AND VICE PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF  
VOLUNATRY ASSOCIATIONS FOR CHILD CARE; AND MRS. NESTA PATRICK, SOCIAL  
WORKER, SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, PRESIDENT OF LEAGUE OF WOMEN  
VOTERS, AND CHAIRMAN, CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE. EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE  
ADDITIONAL NAMES OF TRIBUNE PARTICIPANTS WHEN KNOWN IF DEPT DESIRES.  
RICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** STATUS OF WOMEN  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 JUN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** RowellE0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PORTO01327  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750192-0285  
**From:** PORT OF SPAIN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750689/aaaaddur.tel  
**Line Count:** 123  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 119806  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** RowellE0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TRINIDAD DELEGATION TO WORLD CONFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR  
**TAGS:** OCON, TD, UN, IWY  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006